

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

1 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT : Recommendations re the Informal Visit of a Distinguished American to [] for PBSUCCESS.

1. Pursuant to a request by the DD/P, the following paper has been prepared which sets forth Western Hemisphere Division thinking re the necessity for the establishment of a close working relationship between [] and the PBSUCCESS mechanism operating in that area.

2. Since the issuance of the "White Paper" by the Guatemalan government which exposed the Calligeris "conspiracy" and certain elements of outside support, Headquarters and Lincoln have noticed that [] have become extremely cautious in tendering support to the Calligeris group. Certain actions taken by [] have placed the field unit in [] in a critical position, i.e. withdrawal of tourist card privilege which permits Agency personnel to enter [] under aliases. [] is the base of operations and training for PBSUCCESS, []

3. [] may not lend full support to PBSUCCESS unless he receives at least an informal nod re assuring him that the United States Government approves of the Calligeris movement and the activities of the group of American businessmen who are supporting Calligeris. Chief of Station, Lincoln, originally recommended the early selection of a senior United States official to approach [] and elicit the desired support. The selection of an active official of the U.S. Government was disapproved because of the security hazard, and Lincoln agreed to the alternate suggestion, an informal approach. A retired military officer [] would possess the advantage that his prestige and seniority would permit him to deal directly with [] while the fact that he is on the retired list would indicate a close Government connection although non-official.

4. Two persons have been suggested as possessing sufficient stature and ability to carry out the mission successfully. []

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5. The proposed meeting with [] could be arranged either through our [] through the Ambassador, or by a direct approach in the case of [] Since Ambassador [] was recently briefed on certain phases of PBSUCCESS, and since [] as reported in a recent cable, referred to PBSUCCESS by inference when conversing with the Ambassador on other matters, it is recommended that the meeting be arranged through the Ambassador.

6. If the sending of [] or an alternate, is approved, it is recommended that:

a. He use as a pretext for the meeting with [] the presentation of a paper which the [] government can release if they so desire as their own "white paper", or rebuttal to the Guatemalan paper of 29 January 1954. Information is available which can be used as a basis for the [] "white paper".

b. He be authorized to advise [] of the official United States Government position vis-a-vis international communism and Guatemalan communism. He should state, however, that our non-intervention policy prevents direct participation by the United States Government in the Guatemalan problem, but that it does not preclude activity on the part of individuals or groups in the United States who are interested in supporting the Calligeris movement. He can and should, in fact, point out that such unofficial support in the fight against communism is quite proper in the eyes of the United States Government. He might also infer that United States thinking is that a similar position should be taken by all anti-communist governments.

c. In all discussions with [] he be particularly careful to identify United States interest with that of [] and to indicate that similar aid would be extended to [] if he were confronted with the communist menace at home.

7. Our selection will be carefully briefed to preserve the illusion of the United States business group operating with unofficial approval of the United States Government and indicate that any help which [] can logically provide will be looked on with extreme favor. It is

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recommended that he mention specific support items such as issuance of travel cards, freedom of movement in [] and use of suitable areas for training and related activities.

8. In concluding, our selection can point out to [] that the relationship he has suggested would in fact provide a secure means by which our two governments can work side by side in the fight against communism in the Western Hemisphere.

9. It is recommended that the Chief, Western Hemisphere Division, be authorized to contact the suggested candidates re their willingness to accept this mission, and that the person selected be authorized to participate in discussions with [] along the lines set forth in paragraphs 5 through 8 inclusive.

J. C. KING
CWH

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